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YAHOO! INC. C/O DREIER LLP 499 PARK AVENUE NEW YORK, NY 10022			EXAMINER SERRAO, RANDHI N	
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**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

### Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

10/705,181

**Applicant(s)**

HEGERTY ET AL.

**Examiner**

RANODHI N. SERRAO

**Art Unit**

2141

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 January 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 2-12, 14, 15, 17-21 and 24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 2-12, 14, 15, 17-21 and 24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/808)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## DETAILED ACTION

### ***Response to Arguments***

1. Applicant's arguments filed 22 January 2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

*The method that Zha discusses, however, fails to teach or suggest all of the claim elements associated with "analyzing inlinks to the augmented set of hosts to assign a countrytag to a global host when all of the following three tests are true:...", specifically the claimed test that "a particular country code top-level domain accounts for more than a second predetermined percentage of the non-global unique inlinking hosts".*

2. The examiner points out that the limitation, "analyzing inlinks to the augmented set of hosts to assign a countrytag to a global host when all of the following three tests are true:" is a conditional statement. Emphasis added. And the claim does not explain what steps are performed if these three tests are not true. In other words, if these three tests are not true, then the inlinks are not analyzed at all, and therefore the limitation does not need to be given any weight within the claim.
3. Furthermore in this second test, "a particular country code top-level domain accounts for more than a second predetermined percentage of the non-global unique inlinking hosts," the limitation, "the non-global unique inlinking hosts" has not been defined in the claim. Regarding the limitation, "analyzing inlinks to the augmented set of hosts to assign a countrytag to a global host," it is unclear whether a new countrytag is assigned or if any of the mentioned countrytags in lines 1, 5, and 10 of the claim is assigned. Moreover, it is unclear if "a global host," is another global host than the ones

mentioned in lines 7-10, 12, and 13 or not. Due to the vagueness of the claimed limitations, Zha can obviously be interpreted to read on the claimed limitations.

4. Applicant further stated,

*The determination as to the particular country code top-level domain under the second test requires a determination of the particular country code top-level domain with respect to the all of the non-global unique inlinking hosts, which Zha's signal determination fails to accomplish.*

5. In col. 10, lines 8-29, Zha states, "Referring to FIG. 5B, in block 512, a separate signal is determined for **each particular region in a set of regions**. Each signal is based on a number of other hosts, which are associated with the particular region, that are linked, via inbound or outbound links, with the particular host. In other words, for each region, a separate signal is determined relative to the particular host." Emphasis added. Therefore it is clear that Zha teaches a determination of the particular country code top-level domain with respect to the all of the non-global unique inlinking hosts. The applicant may be referring back to the country-related domains mentioned in lines 4 and 8 of the claim. However, once again it is unclear which of these country-related domains the applicant is referring to. This in effect leads to the broad interpretation of the claims which the prior art references clearly teach. And the rejections are maintained. See below.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

6. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

7. Claims 2-4, 7, 9, 11, 20-21, and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wilson et al. (2005/0114484), Pitkow et al. (2002/0016786), and Zha et al. (7,028,027).

8. As per claim 24, Zha et al. teaches analyzing one or more inlinks to at least one global host from the set of global host to determine a countrytag for the at least one global host (see Zha et al., col. 10, lines 8-29); and producing an augmented set of hosts that includes the set of country hosts, the at least one global host, and the corresponding countrytags for each country host and the at least one global host (see Zha et al., col. 10, lines 30-47); summing unique inlinking hosts and outlinking hosts in the augmented set (see Zha et al., col. 12, lines 1-29); and analyzing inlinks to the augmented set of hosts to assign a countrytag to a global host when all of the following three tests are true: there are more than a first predetermined number of unique inlinking hosts from the same country code top-level domain (see Zha et al., col. 9, line 23-col. 10, line 7) a particular country code top-level domain accounts for more than a second predetermined signal of the non-global unique inlinking hosts (see Zha et al., col. 10, lines 8-47), and the number of inlinking hosts from a particular country is more than a predetermined threshold value (see Zha et al., col. 10, line 48-col. 11, line 67). And Pitkow et al. teaches a predetermined percentage (see Pitkow et al., col. 7, lines 20-34). But fail to teach a method of determining a countrytag for a website on a network, comprising: identifying a set of country hosts for a plurality of websites, each country host having a country-related domain; assigning a countrytag to each country host that corresponds to the country-related domain for the respective country host;

identifying a set of global hosts for a plurality of websites, each global host not having a country-related domain. However, Wilson et al. teaches a method of determining a countrytag for a website on a network (see Wilson et al., page 7, claim 1), comprising: identifying a set of country hosts for a plurality of websites, each country host having a country-related domain (see Wilson et al., ¶ 65-70); assigning a countrytag to each country host that corresponds to the country-related domain for the respective country host (see Wilson et al., ¶ 60-64); identifying a set of global hosts for a plurality of websites, each global host not having a country-related domain (see Wilson et al., ¶ 11). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Zha et al. and Pitkow et al. to a method of determining a countrytag for a website on a network, comprising: identifying a set of country hosts for a plurality of websites, each country host having a country-related domain; assigning a countrytag to each country host that corresponds to the country-related domain for the respective country host; identifying a set of global hosts for a plurality of websites, each global host not having a country-related domain in order to add more domain name options to the current domain system (see Wilson et al., ¶ 11).

9. As per claims 2-4 and 20-21, the above-mentioned motivation of claim 24 applies fully in order to combine Zha et al., Pitkow et al., and Wilson et al.

10. As per claim 2, Wilson et al., Pitkow et al., and Zha et al. teach a method, wherein the country-related domain is a top-level domain (see Wilson et al., ¶ 24).

11. As per claim 3, Wilson et al., Pitkow et al., and Zha et al. teach a method, further comprising: crawling the network to gather information about the pages or sites in the

network, including the top-level domain and connectivity of the crawled sites (see Wilson et al., ¶ 39: wherein searching serves the function of crawling).

12. As per claim 4, Wilson et al., Pitkow et al., and Zha et al. teach a method, wherein the network is the Internet (see Wilson et al., ¶ 27).

13. As per claim 7, Wilson et al. Pitkow et al., and Zha et al. teach the mentioned limitations of claim 24 above but Wilson et al. and Zha et al. fail to teach a method of analyzing inlinks to and outlinks from the at least one global host. However, Pitkow et al. teaches a method of analyzing inlinks to and outlinks from the at least one global host (see Pitkow et al., ¶ 20). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Wilson et al. and Zha et al. to a method of analyzing inlinks to and outlinks from the at least one global host in order to build up a relevance profile for each individual and/or group and map that profile in accordance with a determined relevance model to collection content (see Pitkow et al., ¶ 120).

14. As per claim 9, Wilson et al., Pitkow et al., and Zha et al. teach the mentioned limitations of claim 24 above but Wilson et al. and Zha et al. fail to teach a method, wherein the predetermined number is 10. However, Pitkow et al. teaches a method, wherein the predetermined number is 10 (see Pitkow et al., ¶ 118). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Wilson et al. and Zha et al. to a method, wherein the predetermined number is 10 in order to provide more directly relevant search results to that particular user (see Pitkow et al., ¶ 119).

15. As per claim 11, Wilson et al., Pitkow et al., and Zha et al. teach the mentioned limitations of claim 24 above but Wilson et al. and Zha et al. fail to teach a method of wherein said analyzing comprises determining whether a root or default document page for the at least one global host exists in one and only one ODP country section.

However, Pitkow et al. teaches a method of wherein said analyzing comprises determining whether a root or default document page for the at least one global host exists in one and only one ODP country section. (see Pitkow et al., ¶ 118). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Wilson et al. and Zha et al. to a method of wherein said analyzing comprises determining whether a root or default document page for the at least one global host exists in one and only one ODP country section in order to provide more directly relevant search results to that particular user (see Pitkow et al., ¶ 119).

16. As per claim 20, Wilson et al., Pitkow et al., and Zha et al. teach a method, wherein a different test is used to determine if a website should be assigned a "US" countrytag than is used for assigning countrytags of non-US countries (see Wilson et al., ¶ 9).

17. As per claim 21, Wilson et al., Pitkow et al., and Zha et al. teach a method, wherein a website can be assigned more than one countrytag (see Wilson et al., ¶ 82).

18. Claims 5 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wilson et al., Pitkow et al., and Zha et al. as applied to claim 24 above, and further in view of Schuetze et al. (6,941,321).



19. As per claim 5, Wilson et al., Pitkow et al., and Zha et al. teach the mentioned limitations of claim 24 above, but fail to teach a method, wherein the network is an intranet. However, Schuetze et al. teaches a method, wherein the network is an intranet (see Schuetze et al., col. 10, lines 9-18). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Wilson et al., Pitkow et al., and Zha et al. to a method, wherein the network is an intranet to serve a company's internal purposes (see Schuetze et al., col. 1, lines 35-40).

20. As per claim 6, Wilson et al., Pitkow et al., and Zha et al. teach the mentioned limitations of claim 24 above, and furthermore Wilson et al. teaches a method wherein said analyzing comprises at least on country host from the set of country hosts (see Wilson et al., ¶ 60-70). But fails to teach analyzing one or more inlinks. However, Schuetze et al. teaches analyzing one or more inlinks (see Schuetze et al., col. 2, lines 43-56). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Zha et al., Pitkow et al., and Wilson et al. to analyzing one or more inlinks in order to advantageously employ a framework to enhance browsing, searching, retrieving and recommending content in a collection of documents (see Schuetze et al., col. 5, lines 43-47).

21. Claims 10, 14, and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wilson et al., Zha et al., Schuetze et al., and Pitkow et al.

22. As per claim 10, Wilson et al., Zha et al., and Pitkow et al. teach the mentioned limitations of claim 24 above but fail to teach a method, wherein the predetermined percentage is 60%. However, Schuetze et al. teaches a method, wherein the

predetermined percentage is 60% (see Schuetze et al., col. 29, line 54-col. 30, line 7: wherein it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to change the predetermined percentage). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Wilson et al., Zha et al., and Pitkow et al. to a method, wherein the predetermined percentage is 60% in order for quantitatively representing users in a user population, quantitatively determining similarity between users, clustering users according to those similarities, and visually representing clusters of users by analogy to clusters of documents (see Schuetze et al., abstract).

23. As per claim 14, Wilson et al., Zha et al., and Pitkow et al. teach the mentioned limitations of claim 24 above but fail to teach a method, wherein the first predetermined percentage is 40%. However, Schuetze et al. teaches a method, wherein the first predetermined percentage is 40% (see Schuetze et al., col. 29, line 54-col. 30, line 7: wherein it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to change the predetermined percentage). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Wilson et al., Zha et al., and Pitkow et al. to a method, wherein the first predetermined percentage is 40% in order for quantitatively representing users in a user population, quantitatively determining similarity between users, clustering users according to those similarities, and visually representing clusters of users by analogy to clusters of documents (see Schuetze et al., abstract).

24. As per claim 15, Wilson et al., Zha et al., and Pitkow et al. teach the mentioned limitations of claim 24 above but fail to teach a method, wherein the second predetermined percentage is 32%. However, Schuetze et al. teaches a method, wherein the second predetermined percentage is 32% (see Schuetze et al., col. 29, line 54-col. 30, line 7: wherein it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to change the predetermined percentage). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Wilson et al., Zha et al., and Pitkow et al. to a method, wherein the second predetermined percentage is 32% in order for quantitatively representing users in a user population, quantitatively determining similarity between users, clustering users according to those similarities, and visually representing clusters of users by analogy to clusters of documents (see Schuetze et al., abstract).

25. Claims 12 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wilson et al., Zha et al., and Pitkow et al. as applied to claims 1 and 7 above, and further in view of Lakritz (6,526,426).

26. As per claim 12, Wilson et al. and Zha et al. teach the mentioned limitations of claims 24 and 7 above but fail to teach a method wherein said analyzing comprises determining whether the at least one global host is marked for manual countrytagging. However, Lakritz teaches a method wherein said analyzing comprises determining whether the at least one global host is marked for manual countrytagging (see Lakritz, col. 4, lines 27-38). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at

the time of the invention to modify Wilson et al. and Zha et al. to a method wherein said analyzing comprises determining whether the at least one global host is marked for manual countrytagging in order to allow the most appropriate language of a requested document to be served to a Web browser (see Lakritz, col. 15, lines 59-61).

27. As per claim 19, Wilson et al. and Zha et al. teach the mentioned limitations of claim 24 above but fail to teach a method, further comprising: determining a countrytag for a web subsite. However, Lakritz teaches a method, further comprising determining a countrytag for a web subsite (see Lakritz, col. 6, lines 28-42). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Wilson et al. and Zha et al. to a method, further comprising determining a countrytag for a web subsite in order to allow a multilingual web site to be built incrementally (see Lakritz, col. 6, lines 14-18).

28. Claims 17 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wilson et al., Zha et al., and Pitkow et al. as applied to claims 24 and 7 above, and further in view of Page (6,285,999).

29. As per claim 17, Wilson et al., Zha et al., and Pitkow et al. teach the mentioned limitations of claims 24 and 7 above but fail to teach a method, further comprising: adding extra points to a voting value for a country when a name of a non-global host suggests that country. However, Page teaches a method, further comprising: adding extra points to a voting value for a country when a name of a non-global host suggests that country (see Page, col. 9, lines 15-22). It would have been obvious to one having

ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Wilson et al., Zha et al., and Pitkow et al. to a method, further comprising: adding extra points to a voting value for a country when a name of a non-global host suggests that country in order to provide a document ranking method that is scalable and can be applied to extremely large databases such as the world wide web (see Page, col. 2, lines 39-50).

30. As per claim 18, Wilson et al., Zha et al., and Pitkow et al. teach the mentioned limitations of claims 24 and 7 above but fail to teach a method, further comprising: adding extra points to a voting value for a country when an IP address of the host is in that country. However, Page teaches a method, further comprising: adding extra points to a voting value for a country when an IP address of the host is in that country (see Page, col. 9, lines 15-22). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Wilson et al., Zha et al., and Pitkow et al. to a method, further comprising: adding extra points to a voting value for a country when an IP address of the host is in that country in order to provide a document ranking method that is scalable and can be applied to extremely large databases such as the world wide web (see Page, col. 2, lines 39-50).

31. Claim 8 has similar limitations as to claims 2-7, 9-12, 14-15, 18-21, and 24 above; therefore, they are being rejected under the same rationale.

### ***Conclusion***

**THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ranodhi Serrao whose telephone number is (571)272-7967. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-4:30pm, M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rupal Dharia can be reached on (571)272-3880. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should

Art Unit: 2144

you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/R. N. S./

Examiner, Art Unit 2141

4/9/2008

**/William C. Vaughn, Jr./**  
**Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2144**